

Boulevard Planning Group
Minutes/Summary, April 7, 2011
Boulevard Fire and Rescue Inc. Training Room, 39919 Highway 94/Ribbonwood

1. **Call to Order:** 7:08 PM
2. **Determination of Quorum/Roll Call:** Members Present: Tammy Daubach, Jeffrey McKernan, Chris Nolan, Patricia Stuart, Donna Tisdale(Chair) and Audra Hall. Absent: Cheryl Lenz (excused)
3. **Approval of Minutes:** No Action. The minutes for the March meeting were unavailable for approval due to request that they be revised with more easy to read bullet points.
4. **Correspondence:**
 - A. Request, with photos, from the Fire Safe Council to remove several dead and hazardous trees along Tierra Del Sol Road. There were no objections. Chair will advise Chief Francois and DPW.
5. **New Business:**
 - A. Kumeyaay Wind Project Presentation:** Campo EPA Director, Melissa Estes stated that Campo Chair La Chappa could not attend due to her young daughter being ill and Gamesa's Brent Richardson could not attend due to his daughter being in a car accident. Estes introduced Duane Yee, the Asset Manager for the Kumeyaay Wind Project owned by Infigen Energy a private Australian Company. Yee works for Bluarc Management , based in Dallas, contracted through Infigen Energy . He lives in Alpine (35 miles to the west).

Bluarc Manager's responses to Kumeyaay Wind questions are summarized below:

- Yee is a "good neighbor" who came in response to concerns raised by the community and board.
- The December 2009 catastrophic failure at Kumeyaay Wind is still under investigation.
- Discounted local witnesses accounts of see blue flash that arced out to all turbines the night of the December 2009 catastrophic failure. Remarked that they must be seeing UFO's.
- Could not guarantee that a similar failure will not reoccur.
- Neither the cause nor the cost of the failure can be disclosed.
- Declined to respond to insurance and investigation questions--confidential.
- Once the turbines became operational, there is no outside oversight.
- Disposal of the damaged and discarded 75 blades and rotor parts is not yet resolved.
- The blades should be removed but it is not part of the project contract.
- Yee is looking for land to store the blades--not sure where or for how long. (comment: don't move the problem to local private property--take them out of the area for disposal)
- Oil from the discarded rotor hubs had leaked past the tarps they were sitting on and into ground. That soil has now been removed.
- The USEPA and Campo EPA do have project oversight.
- The USEPA and Campo EPA are in discussions. When resolved, USEPA will tell Campo EPA where and how they will be disposed.
- The project is governed by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and North American Reliability Corporation (NERC) who oversee that standards meet Federal Government requirements.
- IEEE standards also apply. Google IEEE standards at Gamesa for more info.
- Accidents are reported to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- The California Independent Systems Operator (CALISO) only oversees production of electricity.
- Kumeyaay Wind has contract with SDG&E .

- If SDG&E does not use their energy they sell it on CALISO's open market.
- If they under produce, they need to buy enough energy from other sources to make up difference of contracted amount. Google the CALISO open market for more info.
- Fire training? Previous project manager had training scheduled for rescues. Not sure about training for turbine fires.
- Complaint on constant Red / strobe light at night and request for local number to file complaint: When red lights fail , the strobes come on. The new LED lights are more impactful and lack synchronization.
- No answers on turbine substation questions or stray voltage issues.
- No answers on tribal noise limitations/ enforcement on turbines.
- Turbine fires are rare based on his experience.
- Ask Infigen to send someone to answer our questions and provide more details.
- Community members can file noise and other complaints with the Planning Group and Yee will provide his contact information to Chair.

Campo EPA's responses to Kumeyaay Wind questions are summarized below:

- The Campo EPA is required to follow all the Federal standards.
- There are two ways into the turbines: internally and via crane
- Birds? There was a 1-year post-construction mortality study. The wind company hired the company to do the study. The tribe got a copy.
- For the study, they planted prey at the base of the turbines.
- That 1-year study recorded carcasses of 5 Red-Tailed Hawks and lots of songbirds,. No Eagle deaths recorded in that year.
- CEPA will look for bird study and ask Chair LaChappa if permission is needed for release.
- Maintenance: Oil is changed "as needed". Safety Kleen picks up oil. Not sure of end disposal site.
- Not aware of Chair's letter to Chair LaChappa asking for research into adverse impacts from Kumeyaay turbines and complaints that come in from about a 3- mile radius.

The guests were thanked for coming to the meeting and answering questions, and were asked by the Chair to extend appreciation to Chair La Chappa for responding to our request. **There was no action on this item.**

B. Rough Acres Ranch Campground/Conference Facility/Emergency Evacuation Center Major Use Permit: Case Number: 3992 11-002; McCain Valley Road; APN 611-070 & 03 and 611-060-03; Kiva Project: 11-0138043 (In addition to Tule Wind MUP): Project consultant, Jim Whalen, discussed the 4 major use permits that are being proposed for Rough Acres Ranch. Main issues and concerns were briefly discussed but it was agreed that more time was needed to pull together concerns and draft comment letter for the County. ***Motion/Second: McKernan/Daubach: Draft a comment letter and list for action at next 6-0-0 Passed***

C. 8:30 AM April 19th: Enel Jewel Valley Wind Turbine Project MET Testing Facilities: Zoning Administration Hearing for Multiple Permit Applications in Jewel Valley and Ribbonwood Road Area: AD 10-051-53: **Discussion and Action on Potential Appeal of proposed Approvals:** Group discussed the Planning Commission Hearing for multiple permit applications potential appeal of proposed approvals. ***Motion/Second: Nolan/McKernan: File an appeal pending the expected approval on multiple permit applications. 5-0-1 motion passed (Pat Stuart abstained due to proximity to project)***

D. Group Will Address Allegations in March 7th Letter From Enel Jewel Valley Wind Project Manager: The false allegations made by Enel Green Power Manager, Jennifer Purczynski, regarding threats of violence and safety concerns were discussed. The Chair read the draft response letter to the Enel CEO, Senior VP, Chief Counsel, and Deputy Counsel, requesting the removal of Ms. Purczynski and consultant, Chris Wahl, from the project for lack of loss trust and respect. It was agreed that no such threats, foul language (other than the term BS), or other evidence of claimed violence and personal safety concerns were evident to those present at the planning group meetings in question. The Chair reported listening to approximately 5 hours of meeting tapes to confirm her memory of events and that of others. Several additions regarding comments from Chris Wahl, Jennifer Purczynski, and Joan Heredia were agreed to and typos corrected. ***Motion/Second: McKernan/Daubach: Send letter to Enel with additions and corrections. Passed 5-0-1 (Pat Stuart Abstained per advice from County Counsel).***

E. C PUC/BLM DEIR/EIS For Tule Wind, ECO Substation, Energia Sierra Juarez & Cumulative Impact Projects. Estimated 392 Industrial Wind Turbines. Comment Deadline Extended to march 4th, 2011: The Chair is finishing the boards previous comments. It was agreed that letter can be sent without review. Chair reported call from BLM head ranger at El Centro Field Office, in response to her call. He reported that residents complaints about their encounter, with armed rangers at PUC/BLM meeting, did not match the ranger's personal audio visual recordings. The head law enforcement ranger refused to respond to questions regarding allegations that the two rangers had provided false names to the residents or that the residents had been advised that the rangers were counseled for using false names, stating that was a private personnel matter. The residents who made the complaint disagreed with the head ranger's response regarding their encounter.

6. Updates and Potential Action Items:

- A. **Brucci MET Tower Applicant Granted 90-Day Time Extension: Case No. AD 3000 10-23:** The group discussed the 90 day time extension for the MET Tower application. ***No Action taken.***
- B. **General Plan Update:** The Chair reported on the March 16th board hearing. ***No action taken.***
- C. **Sunrise Powerlink/TuleWind/Energia Sierra Juarez/Eco Substation:** Mr. Cameron Durckle from SDG&E responded to questions. Here is a summary of his responses:
- Helicopter pilot in Eagles nest incident in Lakeside has been removed from job. No evidence of rumored Eagle strikes in Lakeside or Bankhead Springs.
 - The pilot of 3/27 Mercy Air response to I-8 accident at In-Ko-Pah did not make required contact with SDG&E regarding numerous helicopters working on Sunrise construction. Temporary delay.
 - Durckle said he would look into community report of problems with emergency vehicles getting through Parr Construction road work for same accident. Patient Died.
 - First Sunrise Powerlink tower was set in McCain Valley on March 9. Working on private land.
 - BLM gave approval for overhead transmission construction. Nesting issues with FWS & DFG.

SDG&E's Wood to Steel responses:

- Distribution Circuit 445. More wood to steel work in East County
- Poles are taller with new cable. Yes it is much more shiny and highly visible.
- Need PUC approval to change voltage--but no public review.

SDG&E's Responses to resident who has blocked Circuit 445 upgrade on his property where SDG&E has no easement. Property owner stated that old cable was #6 bare copper. Upgrade going from #6 to Quail line that can carry 10 times voltage and amperage:

- Not sure what is planned in next 5 years or if this will be a transmission line for new Campo Wind.
- Not aware of voltage for two lines *prior* to change or the voltage of each of the four new lines.

SDG&E's responses on ECO Substation and local wind projects:

- Offered to put Bob Maupin in touch with right contacts to address concerns from two of his Alpine commercial tenants that are suffering from the Sunrise construction on Alpine Boulevard.
- No current condemnation under way for new ECO Substation's 138 kV line.
- SDG&E now owns all three ECO Substation parcels. Not sure what acreage is.
- No *current* plans to expand ECO Substation to full planned capacity (up to five 500 kV lines).
- Cause of SDG&E's Escondido Substation fire, that took 2 days to put out, is still under investigation.
- 100 foot right of way for 138 kV lines. 60 feet for underground sections.
- Brushing and clearing under the lines depends on the area and vegetation
- SDG&E's power shut-off plan has a federal moderator. Will meet quarterly and report to Board of Supervisors.
- No tribal easements yet.
- No easements for 138 kV lines for wind projects.
- Goal is to combine tribal easements and impacts.
- New poles can carry increased capacity --not their purpose, but capacity could be increased without public review.
- Mono poles can carry 500 kV lines.
- Plants and screening will be used to camouflage the ECO Substation.
- No PUC requirement for stray voltage or testing.
- Manzanita land access permit for potential wind project development.
- Manzanita MET towers were installed by SDG&E consultants with full tribal consultation
- Potential joint gen-tie study phase.
- Wind turbine setback not yet determined. Part of the process.
- Goal is to study opportunities.
- No new community council meetings. Will just come to next Planning Group meeting.
- Talking to fire agencies now on ECO Substation.
- He did not get satisfactory answers for us on pending removal of Oak trees in Cameron Valley.

7. **Presentation From the Floor on Non-Agenda Items:** The Revitalization Committee will now be meeting the 1st Tuesday of every month (6:30 and 2:30) alternating between Boulevard and Jacumba.

8. **Adjournment: 10:43 PM**

Minutes submitted by Audra Hall, Secretary: _____

Approved by Group: 5-5-11

For more information, contact: Donna Tisdale, Chair, 619-766-4170 or tisdale.donna@gmail.com